

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

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TITLE

RIGHT ANGLED CONNECTOR

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INVENTOR(S)

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001. TECHNICAL FIELD

002. This invention relates to electrical connectors and more particularly to such connectors for receiving a coaxial cable contact. More particularly, it relates to right angle connectors for use with printed circuit boards and still more particularly it relates to use connectors suitable for use in high frequency applications.

003. BACKGROUND ART

004. Electrical connectors, particularly right angled connectors for attachment to printed circuit boards (hereafter, PCB or PCBs) for receiving coaxial cable contacts, for example, for connecting automotive radio antennas, are known. These connectors have worked well in the past; however, they were expensive because of the number of parts they entailed. Such connectors are shown, for example, in U.S. Patent No. 6,386,888. This latter connector comprises a metal bracket, a metal shell, a plastic insulator, a plastic cover and a contact. While this connector works well under normal conditions, test requirements for this connector require that it be plugged into a mating connector on a coaxial cable. This mating connector's cable is then pulled at a defined force through multiple angles. Often, the interface of the cover to the bracket will fail before the required forces are met. It is believed that this failure occurs because to the difficulty in maintaining critical tolerances between the multiple parts.

005. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

006. It is, therefore, an object of the invention to obviate the disadvantages of the prior art.

007. It is another object of the invention to enhance electrical connectors.

008. Still another object of the invention is to reduce the number of parts for an electrical connector.

5. 009. Yet another object of the invention is the provision of a simplified electrical connector, particularly one for mounting to a PCB at one end and attachment or connection to a coaxial cable at another end, especially where the end use of the connector involves high frequencies.

10. 0010. These objects are accomplished, in one aspect of the invention, by the provision of a connector that comprises an electrically conductive member having a longitudinal section and a transverse section, at least a portion of the longitudinal section providing a cylindrical hollow end and the transverse section having four protruding legs for engagement with circuit traces on a printed circuit board, and an electrically conductive pin positioned with respect to the electrically conductive member. At least a first part of the electrically conductive pin is substantially centrally located within the hollow end, and a single-piece electrically insulating body surrounds the electrically conductive member and the electrically conductive pin.

15. 0011. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the single-piece, electrically insulating body is achieved by over-molding the electrically conductive member and the electrically conductive contact pin as they are held in place in a suitable mold cavity.

20. 0012. The construction thus described provides a connector that comprises only three parts and all of the insulating parts are constructed as a single body. The connector is rigid, easily passing the required bending forces test and is economical to manufacture and assemble. Additionally, it is suitable in areas where high frequencies are required.

0013. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

0014. Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a subassembly of a connector with an electrically conductive member having an electrically conductive contact pin received in a hollow end of the conductive member;

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0015. Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the electrically conductive member; and

0016. Fig. 3 is a sectional view of the completed connector with the insulating body molded in place.

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0017. BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

0018. For a better understanding of the present invention, together with other and further objects, advantages and capabilities thereof, reference is made to the following disclosure and appended claims in conjunction with the above-described drawings.

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0019. Referring now to the drawings with greater particularity, there is shown in Fig. 1 a subassembly of a right-angled electrical connector. Specifically, a right-angled connector in accordance with an aspect of the invention comprises a subassembly 10 having an electrically conductive member or ground shell 12 having a longitudinal section 12a and a transverse section 12b. The longitudinal section 12a is provided with a longitudinal axis 13 and at least a portion 14 of the member 12 provides a cylindrical hollow end 16. A trough 18 is formed in the member 12 to accommodate an electrically conductive contact pin 18a and at least one leg 19 is provided on member 12 extending in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis 13. In a preferred embodiment of the invention the member 12 has four legs 19, as shown in Fig. 2, which, in the final construction, will provide the ground connections for the

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connector, as will be explained hereafter. Member 12 can be any electrically conductive material but in a preferred embodiment of the invention it is die cast zinc.

5 0020. Pin 18a has a first longitudinal part 20 that is substantially centrally located in the hollow end 16 and the trough 18; that is, the first longitudinal part 20 is coaxial with the axis 13, and the pin 18a has a second part 22 that, in the right-angled connector shown, projects in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction and the axis 13 and which, in the finished connector, will provide the electrical connection to the contact pin. Contact pin 18a can be any conductive material but is preferably brass.

10 0021. To complete a connector 30, the subassembly 10 is mounted in a suitable mold cavity with the pin 18a held in its appropriate position by tooling, not shown.

15 0022. The single-piece, electrically insulating body 32 is then over-molded around the subassembly 10. The body 32 can take any appropriate or desired configuration but in a preferred embodiment includes at least two and preferably four spacing feet 34.

20 0023. A stabilizing slot 38 can be include to accommodate stresses that may occur in the molded body 32 and a tab 40 with a ramp 42 can also be provided to lock in a suitable opening in a mating connector.

25 0024. In use the connector 30 is mounted upon a PCB 50 with the four legs 19 and the second part 22 of pin 18a engaging plated-through holes in the PCB. The spacing feet 34 are in contact with one surface of the PCB and serve to provide consistent spacing for the connector 30. After mounting the connector 30 to the PCB 50 appropriate solder 52 can be applied to insure adequate electrical connection to the legs 19 and the second part 22 of contact 18a.

0025. There is thus provided a new and much simpler and more economical electrical connector. Only three parts are employed and the single-piece body greatly increases the strength of the connector. Additionally, the use of the four feet on the member 12 allows the use of the connector in high frequency applications.

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0026. While there have been shown and described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of the invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various changes and modification can be made herein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

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